

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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EB-07 /079 W

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R 061940Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4899

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 2926

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BR US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEW ON RELATIONS WITH LA, US

SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW GIVEN UPI AND RELEASED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY, FONMIN SILVEIRA DENIED US-BRAZIL MOU MADE BRAZIL AGENT OF US, REAFFIRMED IMPORTANCE TO BRAZIL OF LA TIES, AND PLACED US-BRAZIL TRADE PROBLEMS IN CONTEXT OF BROADER RELATIONS. LA DIPLOMATS IN BRASILIA WERE QUOTED AS EXPRESSING PLEASURE WITH "DEFINITIVE" WORD. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ARE QUOTES OF FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA FROM INTERVIEW GIVEN UPI AND RELEASED BY ITAMARATY.

2. (TO QUESTION ON WHETHER "CLOSER CONSULTATIVE RELATIONS" WITH THE US WILL GIVE BRAZIL DIFFERENT OR GREATER LA ROLE) "OUR RELATIONS WITH THE US REACHED A DEGREE OF MATURITY AND RICHNESS OF ASPECTS (SUCH THAT) IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MARK THEM WITH A KIND OF MECHANISM FOR PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THIS NEW FORM OF RELATIONS WITH THE US, HOWEVER, HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ROLE WHICH BRAZIL IS CARRYING OUT WITHIN THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, THE PRINCIPAL SCENE OF OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS."

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3. "OUR RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA ARE NOT SUSCEPTIBLE OF BEING AFFECTED BY THE FORM AND INTENSITY OF OUR CONTACTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES."

4. (TO QUESTION ON IDEA THAT BRAZIL'S "SPECIAL RELATIONS" WITH THE US MAKE IT US "DELEGATE" OR "INTERMEDIARY")  
"BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES ARE TWO IMPORTANT NATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND HAVE MANY SIMILAR OPINIONS IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY. BUT, BEYOND THAT, THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT AS MUCH FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF BRAZIL AS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND CONFER A CERTAIN SINGULARITY ON RECIPROCAL RELATIONS. THAT WAS WHAT I MEANT WHEN I USED THE EXPRESSION "SPECIAL RELATIONS."

5. "THE RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BRAZIL IMPLICIT IN THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING EXCLUDES THE IDEA THAT BRAZIL COULD FILL THE ROLE OF AGENT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN A SUPERPOWER, HOWEVER FRIENDLY IT MAY BE, AND A GROUP OF COUNTRIES TO WHICH WE FEEL DEEPLY RELATED."

6. "IT IS NECESSARY TO SEE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH BRAZIL SIGNED WITH THE US--AND TO WHICH WE ATTRIBUTE NO DOUBT GREAT IMPORTANCE, TO THE POINT OF BEING BROUGHT TO REFER TO BRAZILIAN-US RELATIONS AS 'SPECIAL'--IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER INDENTICAL ACTS SIGNED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN WORLD."

7. "THE TOTALITY OF THESE INITIATIVES AND OF OTHER ACTS OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD SHOW THE DIRECTION OF A GROWING AUTONOMY IN INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS, WHICH RESULTS FROM A CERTAIN DEGREE OF DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL SECURITY, (BOTH) TOTALLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE POSITION OF INTERMEDIARY."

8. (TO QUESTION INTERPRETING "OPERATIVITY" OF US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS IN TERMS OF BRAZIL'S LARGE TRADE DEFICIT WITH US, ASKING WHAT TIME LIMITS OR GOALS SILVEIRA FIXED FOR DECIDING WHETHER "OPERATIVITY" ACHIEVED OR NOT, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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REMINDING HIM OF HIS REFERENCE TO "OTHER OPTIONS")  
"IN THE CASE OF THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL, WITHOUT UNDERESTIMATING THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION WE RECEIVE FROM THAT COUNTRY AND THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS AT VARIOUS LEVELS, THE PROBLEM OF BRAZIL'S DEFICIT IN THE BILATERAL TRADE BALANCE IS GROWING CONSTANTLY."

9. "BRAZIL SEES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARRIERS TO ITS EXPORTS TO THE AMERICAN MARKET WITH CONCERN AND EVEN WITH A SENSE OF INJUSTICE."

10. "THE DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH PRELIMINARY, RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF THE TRADE SUB-GROUP HELD IN RECENT DAYS IN WASHINGTON LEAVE US OPTIMISTIC UP TO A CERTAIN POINT WITH REGARD TO A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE IN OFFICIAL US CIRCLES, WHICH WILL NECESSARILY BE REFLECTED IN THE REAL DATA OF ECONOMIC TRANSACTIONS. OF COURSE, HOWEVER, ANY EFFORT TO FIX TIME LIMITS FOR THAT ALTERATION OF TENDENCY WOULD BE NAIVE. WITH REGARD TO THE 'OTHER OPTIONS' TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED, THEY WILL RESULT FROM THE IMPOSITION OF REALITY ITSELF AND NOT FROM PROGNOSTICATIONS FIXED ON THE BASIS OF SUBJECTIVE FACTORS. FURTHERMORE, IT IS MINIMALLY WISE NOT TO DEPEND EXCESSIVELY ON TRADE WITH ONLY ONE COUNTRY, OR WITH A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. IN THIS SENSE, TO STIMULATE ALTERNATIVES, TO SEEK OUT ORGANS, IS A MEASURE OF ELEMENTARY CAUTION. GIVEN THIS, I WANT TO CLARIFY THAT THE 'OPERATIVITY' OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE US CANNOT BE JUDGED ONLY BY ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL PARAMETERS, WHICH, AS IS KNOWN, CONSTITUTE ONLY ONE FACET, ALTHOUGH OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, OF THE PROBLEMS INCLUDED IN THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM FORESEEN IN THE MEMORANDUM."

11. MOST OF FOREGOING WAS CARRIED BY O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO APRIL 2. FOLLOWING DAY, ESTADO REPORTED FAVORABLE REACTION FROM LA DIPLOMATS IN BRASILIA. "A GREAT NATION LIKE BRAZIL COULD NEVER BECOME AN AGENT OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY," THE AMBASSADOR OF AN "IMPORTANT LATIN AMERICAN NATION" WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "THE WORDS OF THE FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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MINISTER LEAVE NO DOUBT: BRAZIL'S PLACE IS AT THE SIDE OF LATIN AMERICA AND BRAZIL WILL NOT DEPART FROM ITS HISTORIC POSITION." ANOTHER LA AMBASSADOR WAS QUOTED AS AFFIRMING "SILVEIRA'S WORD MAKES US NOW UNDERSTAND BETTER A DIPLOMATIC ACT OF BRAZIL RIGHT AFTER KISSINGER'S VISIT." EXPLAINING THAT REFERENCE IS TO GOB REQUEST FOR CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PARTICIATION IN SELA, STORY SAYS SAME AMBASSADOR ADDED "IN THAT INSTANT WE PERCEIVED THAT, INDEPENDENT OF THE CLOSE RELATIONS OF BRAZIL WITH THE UNITED STATES, IN A CERTAIN SENSE RECOMMENDED BY BRAZIL'S NEW STATUS, WE COULD CONTINUE COUNTING ON BRAZIL AT OUR SIDE AS AN IMPORTANT PARTNER. THE WORDS OF FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA CONFIRM THAT EXPECTATION." A "THIRD DIPLOMAT" WAS QUOTED AS DECLARING "SILVEIRA'S WORD TRANQUILIZES LATIN AMERICA," AND AS STATING THAT

ITAMARATY'S DISTRIBUTION OF THE INTERVIEW "SHOWS THAT  
THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WANTED TO GIVE THE GREATEST  
POSSIBLE REPERCUSSION TO THAT OFFICIAL AND DEFINITIVE  
WORD."  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2005 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEW ON RELATIONS WITH LA, US SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW GIVEN UPI AND RELEASED BY FOREIGN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BR, US, (AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA, ANTONIO F)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006